

# Newhalen Tribal Council

May 18, 2012

Mr. Dennis McLerran  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. EPA Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

VIA Electronic Mail  
[mclerran.dennis@epa.gov](mailto:mclerran.dennis@epa.gov)

**Re: Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment  
60 Day Comment Period**

Dear Mr. McLerran:

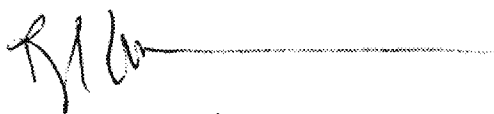
The Newhalen Tribal Council formally requests the 60 day comment period *to begin* October, 2012. Our request is supported by the following facts:

1. The 60 day comment period is not sufficient for meaningful feedback or for Tribal/ANC consultation;
2. The draft was due May 1, 2012;
3. EPA has scheduled the comment period during the busiest time of the year for the residents in our area. We rely on this time for subsistence fishing, hunting, berry picking, commercial fishing and the construction period for our way of life.
4. Many of us will be absent during the comment period.

Finally, the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment must be done with enough time for thorough review and analysis of the facts and extensive input from the residents of the area.

Sincerely,

NEWHALEN TRIBAL COUNCIL



Board President